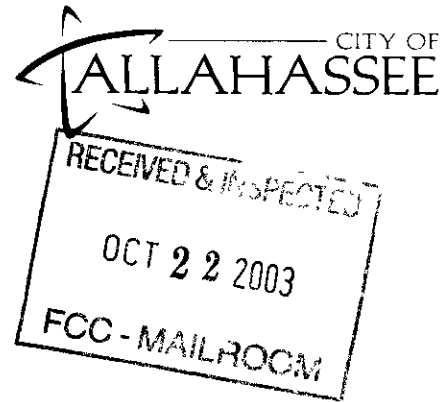


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October 14, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The City of Tallahassee operates an 800 MHz trucked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in Florida and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Quillin
Fire Chief

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